



**Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service**

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

*Marc Tosiano, State Statistician*

*A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture*

717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.usda.gov/nass

## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending May 2, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

Released May 3, 2004, 4 pm

---

***This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)***

---

**Average week for Field Work:** There were 4 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 3 percent short, 74 percent adequate and 23 percent surplus due to the sunny and warm conditions across the state during the last week. Despite some rain, 68 percent of the spring tillage has been completed, which is ahead of 57 percent the previous year, and 60 percent for the five year average. Principal farm activities included spring tillage, planting of spring crops, spreading fertilizer, spreading manure, pruning fruit trees, repairing fences and machinery, and caring for livestock.

**Crops:** The winter wheat crop was rated as 4 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 65 percent good and 11 percent excellent, which is all slightly worse than last week, but still in good condition overall. Barley headed reached 22% last week, which is behind last year average of 31% and the 5 year average of 35%. Oats planted is currently at 72% complete, and also at 35% emerged. Oats condition is looking good with 3% poor, 35% fair, 58% good and 4% excellent. Potato planting has reached 42% complete by the end of last week, which is ahead last year and the five year averages at 24%. Alfalfa stand last week was rated as 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 56 percent good and 17 percent was excellent. The timothy clover stand was rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 58 percent good and 18 percent was excellent.

The fruit crop is looking good with all the sunny weather the last week. Peaches are at an average full bloom of 90% across the state. Peach condition is looking good this early with 99% rated at good and 1% at excellent. Apples were estimated to be 98% full bloom. Apple condition also looking good this spring with 9% very poor, 9% poor, 43% fair, 30% good, and 9% excellent. Cherries received the most benefit from the warm weather and are now past full bloom and into pedal drop.

**Livestock:** The sunny conditions and warm temperatures has 2 percent of pasture land in Pennsylvania was rated very poor, 6 percent was rated poor, 20 percent was rated fair, 51 percent was rated good and 21 percent was rated excellent.

**U.S. As of April 25, 2004:** Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the eastern half of the Nation, extending into the central and southern Great Plains, while below-normal temperatures dominated elsewhere. Heavy thunderstorms occurred in the middle and lower Mississippi Valley, bringing over 12 inches of precipitation to parts of Missouri and Arkansas. Adjacent areas of the Ohio Valley and central and southern Great Plains received moderate rainfall, though the northern Great Plains remained mostly dry. Heavy snow fell in parts of the central Rocky Mountains, while light to moderate precipitation fell across the northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest. Light rain fell across most of the Northeast, while the Southeast remained mostly dry.

Corn: Planting advanced to 37 percent complete, 13 percentage points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of normal. Eight percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 5 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Planting steadily progressed across the Corn Belt despite the mid-week thunderstorms limiting fieldwork opportunities. Growers in Indiana and Ohio planted 27 percent of their crop during the week, while Illinois producers planted 24 percent. Emergence had begun in most areas, but fields across the northern Great Plains, northern Corn Belt, and Ohio Valley showed no progress.

Soybeans: Growers had planted 5 percent of the Nation's soybean crop, 3 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Progress was mostly confined to the Delta, with planting just getting underway throughout most other areas. Mississippi growers, taking advantage of dry weather, had planted 65 percent of their expected acreage, 26 points ahead of last year and 36 points ahead of normal. Producers in Arkansas and Louisiana were also well ahead of their average planting pace.

Winter Wheat: Twenty-four percent of the crop had reached the heading stage, compare with 17 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Heading was most active in the southern Great Plains, where 45 percent of Oklahoma's crop entered the stage during the week. The crop was most advanced in California, where 95 percent of the crop was headed. Crop condition improved slightly in most States, including those areas where the previous week's freeze caught much of the crop in the critical jointing stage.

Sorghum: Planting was 20 percent complete, 1 point ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of normal. Planting progress was slow in Texas, while Kansas producers had not begun planting. Louisiana growers planted 25 percent of their crop during the week to bring their total to 55 percent complete.

Small Grains: Spring wheat planting advanced to 46 percent complete, 7 points ahead of last year and 21 points ahead of normal, while 15 percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 9 percent for last year and 6 percent for the 5-year average. Barley growers had planted 45 percent of their crop, 12 points ahead of last year and 19 points ahead of normal. Seventeen percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 10 percent last year and 7 percent for the normal. Oat planting advanced to 61 percent complete, compared with 47 percent last year and 40 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence, at 21 percent, was 7 points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of normal. Planting and emergence of small grains continued to progress well ahead of normal in most areas due to favorable planting conditions.

# Weather Data For Week Ending May 2, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 2, 2004					GDD Base 40F Total
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	78	30	57	6	0.76	4	3.66	0.19	16	148	103	314
Franklin	79	28	54	4	0.64	6	4.76	0.98	20	114	70	291
Meadville	75	28	53	4	0.94	4	3.64	0.12	16	109	77	271
Mercer	77	19	52	1	0.26	2	3.22	-0.37	13	94	49	239
Springboro	76	27	53	3	1.20	5	4.89	1.53	19	105	56	259
Warren	79	30	54	4	1.46	6	5.72	1.94	19	107	71	272
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	75	26	53	7	0.81	5	4.35	0.72	17	113	94	255
Emporium	81	28	53	6	0.87	4	4.55	0.84	17	116	92	287
Kane	73	21	48	2	0.95	4	3.80	-0.08	13	56	38	159
Laporte	76	27	52	1	0.98	4	3.75	0.22	17	96	42	243
Lock Haven	83	33	56	4	1.02	1	4.49	1.18	12	141	81	368
Port Allegany	78	26	51	3	0.87	3	3.84	0.46	15	100	72	235
Renovo	82	32	54	2	0.94	2	4.21	0.90	13	134	74	332
Ridgway	78	26	52	4	1.37	3	5.30	1.59	12	93	69	232
Stevenson Dam	82	30	53	5	1.71	4	5.27	1.56	14	120	96	306
Towanda	83	33	55	4	0.44	2	3.21	0.07	13	116	62	291
Wellsboro	79	26	52	5	0.89	3	4.03	1.48	15	97	76	236
Williamsport	83	31	57	4	0.89	4	3.60	0.14	17	157	70	395
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	80	32	53	4	1.25	3	4.06	0.37	14	88	59	239
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	80	32	57	5	1.01	3	3.22	0.01	11	142	77	357
Susquehanna	82	32	56	8	0.89	4	2.50	-1.37	13	115	91	305
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	80	29	55	4	1.33	3	4.75	1.30	16	127	69	304
New Castle	81	29	56	6	0.66	3	4.41	1.18	17	133	88	321
Slippery Rock	77	29	56	5	0.66	5	4.56	1.20	20	136	97	335
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	80	29	56	3	1.39	3	5.32	1.93	16	160	82	349
DuBois	78	26	56	6	1.50	5	5.10	1.51	20	146	104	311
Lewistown	82	34	56	1	0.86	3	5.08	1.87	16	154	55	381
Middletown	79	37	58	2	1.08	2	5.13	1.60	14	193	74	457
Prince Gallitzi	79	29	54	4	1.25	5	7.15	2.60	15	121	81	287
Selinsgrove	79	34	56	3	1.18	4	5.18	1.77	16	138	63	355
State College	81	32	56	4	0.94	4	4.42	1.30	14	153	91	353
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	79	36	57	3	1.44	3	3.92	0.12	17	150	61	404
Lehighton	79	35	55	1	1.08	3	3.67	0.11	14	130	49	355
Matamoras	78	35	54	1	1.12	3	3.93	-0.33	13	96	32	284
Tobyhanna	78	26	54	7	1.87	4	4.59	0.23	14	92	73	256
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	79	32	60	7	0.53	4	4.20	0.70	16	200	122	420
Derry	81	29	57	5	1.42	5	7.50	3.99	21	165	113	368
Myersdale	77	30	52	0	1.73	3	5.74	1.50	14	110	55	269
Mount Pleasant	80	29	57	7	0.96	2	5.44	1.05	11	159	121	353
Pittsburgh Intl	80	32	60	6	0.40	3	4.78	1.41	15	197	108	417
Rector	84	24	56	6	1.50	4	7.75	3.36	23	167	129	365
Waynesburg	83	28	57	5	0.63	3	4.48	0.77	15	170	102	371
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	79	35	57	2	1.36	3	6.12	2.51	17	177	58	412
Everett	82	30	54	1	1.28	3	5.66	2.07	16	117	50	276
Hanover	78	35	59	3	1.75	3	5.71	2.10	14	186	67	426
Shippensburg	83	33	58	2	1.37	3	5.65	2.19	12	195	70	430
South Mountain	77	30	56	3	2.36	3	7.24	3.85	14	155	81	338
York	80	33	59	3	1.75	2	5.90	2.06	15	185	62	433
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	82	37	58	4	1.78	3	4.34	0.36	16	177	96	448
Hamburg	81	35	56	4	1.20	4	3.77	-0.37	17	152	94	399
Hopewell	80	37	57	1	1.44	3	5.53	1.56	16	157	30	407
Lancaster	79	35	58	3	2.13	4	5.87	2.19	17	182	90	440
Neshaminy Falls	81	40	58	5	1.40	3	7.26	2.98	13	174	85	437
New Holland	78	34	57	2	1.33	4	4.58	0.90	17	178	86	424
Philadelphia	81	40	61	4	1.49	3	6.02	2.13	15	229	95	507
Philadelphia NE	80	39	60	3	1.33	3	7.25	3.36	14	210	76	486
Reading	79	36	58	4	1.35	3	4.03	-0.08	16	178	98	441
Valley Forge Na	82	35	57	0	1.79	3	5.99	2.02	12	167	40	416
Willow Grove	80	37	59	5	1.26	3	4.07	-0.21	15	190	101	461

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).  
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.  
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.  
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.  
Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

**Forest County, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - - Tuesday morning the four-county area temperature dropped to 21 degrees. The frost may have damaged some of the crop. Hay crop is off to a fast start. Could possibly see harvesting about two weeks earlier than last year. The winter wheat is looking good. There have been many acres of oats and new seedings planted. Many farmers have worked up corn ground and if things dry up some, could see many acres planted in the next week.

**Potter County, David Stratton (FSA)** - - Farmers have been able to get into the fields this week to do plowing and other tillage work. Some oats have been planted and the ground was drying out quickly. Pasture and hay are starting to grow with the warmer days.

**Tioga County, Pamela Barnes** - - Warmer weather gave us a jump start on spring plowing and planting. Breezy conditions are drying out excess moisture. Many farmers taking advantage of the sunshine to spread fertilizer and manure. Some oats, barley and alfalfa being planted. End of the week storm will slow work down for a day.

**Indiana County, Kevin Fry (Ext)** - - Another good week for field work. Activities included hauling manure, tillage, spraying, and some corn and soybeans planting. Alfalfa growth has really taken off in the last couple of weeks with average height at 12-18 inches. The weevil populations are fairly low again this year, except for the typical trouble areas. Harvest, which isn't too far away, should be ahead of peak weevil damage.

**Cambria County, Dolly Little (FSA)** - - This week has been a good week for planting. Many fields of oats has been planted and some fields have emerged.

**Centre County, Dick Decker** - - Good week for field work.

**Huntingdon County, Marina Kemper** - - This week we got all of our spring plowing done. Some of our neighbors have started to plant corn but I think it is too early for this area. This week the Weather Service wants at least 2 nights below freezing so we are going to wait until at least the 15th of May to plant corn. Our frost free date here is May 31st, it costs enough to plant once - why plant it twice from freezing out.

**Juniata County, Dave Stetler** - - Three or four days at or above 80 degrees, time to start checking for alfalfa weevil on the light ground strips with southern exposure.

**Snyder/Juniata Counties, William C. Sheaffer** - - The barley is beginning to head, the alfalfa stands are making very good growth and the winter wheat is progressing very nicely. The main activities during this past week included plowing, sowing oats, planting corn and soybeans, spreading manure and spraying herbicides. Very good week!

**Westmoreland County, John Lohr (FSA)** - - Only a fair week for field work with soils finally drying enough to work toward the weekend after rain and snow showers on Tuesday. Temperature was in the twenties Wednesday morning. Corn planting progress remains slow as producers wait on drier conditions. With some relatively warm days, the early-planted sweet corn under plastic is progressing nicely.

**Cumberland County, John Rowehl** - - Rain kept field work minimal until late Thursday or Friday. Rye mowed for silage, corn planting, manure spreading.

**Franklin County, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** - - Good week for field work of all kinds. Operators busy hauling manure, chisel plowing and planting corn. Southern part of county topsoil is perfect for planting while northwestern part of county still moist and cool soils. Alfalfa, mixed hay and pasture are all growing very well. Rye for silage will be ready this week. Season appears to be on a normal pace.

**Fulton County, Russ McLucas** - - Saying we had 2 days fit to work is stretching it somewhat; 2" soil depth moisture should be keeping everything parked. We are still extremely wet other than the wind dried surface. I would say an excellent set of conditions to generate some really bad soil compaction.

**York County, Wayne Kurtz (FSA)** - - With ideal planting conditions, corn planting began county wide.

**Montgomery County, Andrew Frankenfield (Ext)** - - As a result of 2" of rain on Monday, field work was at a stand still until late in the week. Very little corn planted so far, just when it starts drying out it rains again. Timothy mites are in area fields and are being treated. Manure hauling, fixing equipment, burning down no till ground, and some tillage were the main activities this week.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 2, 2004**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	68	57	60
Corn, planted	21	20	18
Corn, emerged	2	1	2
Barley, heading or headed	22	31	35
Wheat, heading or headed	4	13	7
Oats, planted	72	72	67
Oats, emerged	35	28	36
Potatoes, planted	42	24	24
Peaches, in full bloom or past	90	84	72
Cherries, in full bloom or past	100	50	66

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 2, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	4	20	65	11
Oats	0	3	35	58	4
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	5	21	56	17
Timothy clover stand	1	3	20	58	18
Pasture	2	6	20	51	21
Peaches	0	0	0	99	1
Apples	9	9	43	30	9

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**United States**  
**Department of Agriculture**  
 National Agricultural Statistics Service  
 Pennsylvania Statistical Office  
 2301 N Cameron St Room G-19  
 Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

**PRESORTED**  
 FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
 USDA  
 PERMIT NO. G-38